

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph in the specification commencing at pages 27, line 30 through page 28, line 13 as follows:

Any suitable water-soluble, alkaline metal inorganic salts, which are known by those of skill in the art, and/or which are readily determined from sources known by those of skill in the art, such as Lang's Handbook of Chemistry (Thirteenth Edition, McGraw Hill Book Company, New York, 1985), may be used in the compositions of the present invention. Lang's Handbook of Chemistry lists physical constants of inorganic compounds that contain alkaline metal inorganic salts with both inorganic and organic ~~cations~~ anions. General examples of these alkaline metal inorganic salts include, but are not limited to, potassium, sodium, lithium, rubidium and cesium carbonates, sulfates, tartrates, nitrates, phosphates, gluconates, citrates, sorbates, lactates or halogens, or any combination of the foregoing. They preferably do not, however, include alkaline earth metal inorganic salts, such as magnesium, calcium, beryllium, strontium, barium, radium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum or actinium inorganic salts. If alkaline earth metal inorganic salts are included as a component in the compositions of the invention, they should be included as an optional component in addition to the alkaline metal inorganic salts.

The underlining of Lang's Handbook of Chemistry does not represent an amendment. It was underlined in the original application to note that it is a publication. It remains underlined for the same purpose in this Preliminary Amendment. The only amendment is the deletion of "cations" and replacing it with "anions."